

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02314 041800Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EURE-00 CU-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04
/072 W

-----041823Z 054831 /50

P 041752Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3038
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 02314

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEADERS' REACTION TO QUEBEC WHITE PAPER

1. PM TRUDEAU HAS YET TO COMMENT ON QUEBEC'S LANGUAGE
WHITE PAPER AND REACTION OF OTHER FEDERAL LEADERS AS RE-
PORTED BY MEDIA HAS RANGED FROM DEFENSE MIN DANSON'S MILD
STATEMENT ("I AM NOT DISTURBED BY IT, BUT TERRIBLY
INTERESTED") TO POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIS'S COMMENT THAT
"WHITE PAPER TROUNCES CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF MINOR-
ITY GROUPS."

2. NOT SURPRISINGLY, MOST INITIAL COMMENT CAME FROM
MINISTERS WELL-KNOWN FOR STRONG, PUBLIC OUTSPOKENNESS.
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS MIN WARREN ALLMAND, FOR EXAM-
PLE, ASSERTED ON DAY PAPER RELEASED THAT PROVISION THAT
COURT JUDGMENTS BE GIVEN ONLY IN FRENCH WAS CLEARLY UN-
CONSTITUTIONAL. HE ADDED REQUIREMENT THAT PUBLIC BODIES,
INCLUDING SCHOOL BOARDS, OPERATE IN FRENCH "IS STUPID."
FINALLY, RE "FRANCISATION" OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, HE
INDICATED IT "MAY FORCE HEAD OFFICES OUT OF QUEBEC."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02314 041800Z

MAYBE THEY DON'T WANT HEAD OFFICES."

3. JEAN CHRETIEN, MIN INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE,
STOPPED SLIGHTLY SHORT OF ALLMAND REACTION. ALTHOUGH HE
INDICATED THAT SOME PARTS OF PROPOSALS, LIKE RESTRICTIONS
ON USE OF ENGLISH IN COURTS AND LEGISLATURE, ARE CLEARLY
UNCONSTITUTIONAL, HE ADDED, "I DON'T THINK FEDERAL GOVERN-

MENT CAN DECIDE ON WHETHER TO INTERVENE UNTIL LEGISLATION IS PRESENTED. WE DON'T KNOW IF THE PROPOSALS IN WHITE PAPER WILL BE INCLUDED IN LAW."

4. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) LEADER JOE CLARK TOOK A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH. CLARK NOTED THAT THRUST OF WHITE PAPER WOULD BE TO DISCOURAGE UNILINGUAL BUSINESSES FROM INVESTING IN QUEBEC. HE POINTED OUT THAT "IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR A CANADIAN COMPANY RUN BY SOMEONE SAY FROM CALGARY -- WHO IS UNILINGUAL -- TO MAINTAIN ACTIVITIES HERE (CLARK WAS SPEAKING IN QUEBEC)." HE DISMISSED SUGGESTION THAT THIS WOULD REPRESENT ANTI-FRENCH BACKLASH, ASSERTING THAT "IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF BEING ANTI-FRENCH. IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF RESPONDING TO AN OBSTACLE FACING INVESTORS."

5. LEADING CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY SENATOR EUGENE FORSEY NOTED HE WAS "APPALLED" BY THE WHITE PAPER AND SAW THIS AS THE FIRST ATTEMPT BY THE PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) GOVERNMENT TO DRIVE OUT ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBECERS BEFORE THE INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM. HE SAID "IF YOU DISCOURAGE THEM ENOUGH SO THAT THEY MOVE OUT, THEN THEY CAN'T VOTE AGAINST YOU IN THE REFERENDUM."

6. FORMER NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) LEADER DAVID LEWIS, WHO NOW NDP ELDER STATESMAN, CAUTIONED AGAINST ENGLISH OVER-REACTION. ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS, HE COMMENTED, MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO ALLOW THEMSELVES "TO BE DRAGGED INTO A CONFRONTATION ON AN OBSCURE CONSTITUTIONAL POINT." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 02314 041800Z

7. COMMENT: AS INDICATED ABOVE, INITIAL REACTION FROM PROMINENT FEDERAL FIGURES OVER WEEKEND FOLLOWING PAPER RELEASE WAS SPOTTY AND MUCH OF IT VISCERAL. OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT, ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSALS WERE EXPECTED TO BE TOUGH, WHEN TABLED THEY CAME AS SOMETHING OF SHOCK TO OFFICIAL OTTAWA. IN ANY CASE, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT SIGNAL ANY OFFICIAL REACTION UNTIL IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOLLOWS WHITE PAPER. ENDERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL LEADERS, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA02314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770116-1094
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770491/aaaadbhj.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a3301ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2907685
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEDERAL LEADERS' REACTION TO QUEBEC WHITE PAPER
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a3301ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009